

REMARKS

Claims 21-32 have been canceled without prejudice, and replaced by new claims 33-44, which are currently pending. Examination and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 21-32 stand rejected as being anticipated by USP 5,613,890 to DeMars ("DeMars '890"). This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the new claims.

New independent claim 33 recites an air control system that has a cover element positioned adjacent the housing, wherein the cover element is adjusted to cover selected portions of the air generator. In contrast, DeMars '890 does not teach or suggest providing any cover element that is positioned adjacent an air inlet, and adjusted to cover selected portions of the air inlet. For example, the plate 72 is not positioned adjacent an air inlet. Thus, claim 33, and claims 34-38 depending therefrom, are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

New independent claim 39 recites an air channel positioned inside the housing, with the air generator coupled to the air channel. Claim 39 further recites a cover element which is adjusted to partially cover the air channel in a manner such that the air channel is always at least partially exposed to ambient. See FIGS. 8-9 and page 10 of the specification, where the air channel 191 is always at least partially exposed to ambient because the cover element (slide 214) cannot completely cover the air channel 191.

In contrast, DeMars '890 does not teach or suggest a cover element which is adjusted to partially cover the air channel in a manner such that the air channel is always at least partially exposed to ambient. For example, the plate 72 has a hole 74 that is aligned with the inlet air opening 68 (i.e., which leads to an air channel). However, as best viewed from FIG. 5, the plate 72 completely covers the air inlet opening 68 so that the air channel is not always at least partially exposed to ambient.

Thus, claim 39, and claims 40-44 depending therefrom, are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

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The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if there are any matters that can be resolved in a phone conversation, or if the Examiner has any other suggestions, ideas, or proposed amendments that would place this application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper and its enclosures are being deposited with the United States Postal service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Date: November 22, 2004

By: 
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